

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
DEC. 22, 2015
VIRTUAL MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

With President Paul Fletcher presiding, the meeting of the board of directors of the Society of Professional Journalists was called to order at 2:02 p.m. ET on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2015, via Zoom virtual meeting platform.

In addition to Fletcher the following were present: Immediate Past President Dana Neuts; Secretary-Treasurer Rebecca Baker; Vice President of Campus Chapter Affairs Sue Kopen Katcef; Director At Large J. Alex Tarquinio; Campus Advisers At Large Mike Reilley and Becky Tallent; Student Representative Monica Dattage; Regional Directors Jane Primerano, Andy Schotz, Joe Radske, Matt Hall and Amanda Womac.

Staff members present for the meeting were Executive Director Joe Skeel, and Membership Strategist Tara Puckey.

The primary purpose of the call was to discuss the 2019 convention and a partnership for the 2019 conference.

2019 CONVENTION

Skeel recommended that the board approve the Grand Hyatt San Antonio as the site of the 2019 convention. The dates would be Sept. 5-7. Some of the reasons for that recommendation include:

- A \$195/night room rate for attendees (the rate in Baltimore for 2018 is \$199/night). Given the city, time of year and that we are talking three and half years out, we feel it's a good rate.
- Date: Sept. 5-7, 2019.
- EIJ sleeping rooms and meeting space under one roof. Some other bidders would have required two hotels or two hotels and a convention center. Furthermore, we would be the only group in-house.
- A low \$75,000 F&B minimum for all three groups. This is a critical area because our groups host relatively few meal events.
- Exhibit hall and meeting space free of charge.
- Free or reduced costs for pre-convention executive committee/board meetings (as we had in Orlando last year and New Orleans next year).
- Three complimentary coffee breaks on the exhibit floor.
- Complimentary guest room wireless.
- Complimentary meeting space and exhibit hall wireless and hard-wired lines (a very unusual, but welcome concession).

- Located on the RiverWalk, which is the area of San Antonio one wants to be if holding a conference as it provides a plethora of food and bar options with varying price points.
- Nine miles from the airport.
- And, of course, it has a bar and coffee shop in the lobby.

Upon proper motion by Kopen Katcef and second by Schotz the board approved a partnership with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and selection of the Grand Hyatt San Antonio for the 2019 annual conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon proper motion by Kopen Katcef and second by Schotz, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 22 2015.